

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: BOMBING AND MURDER ATTEMPTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: BELFAST 90

1. SUMMARY. THE PROVISIONAL IRA USED THE VERY EFFECTIVE
BLAST-INCENDIARY BOMB FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE FEBRUARY
LA MON DISASTER, AND TWO MURDER ATTEMPTS WERE MADE JUNE 6.
END SUMMARY.

2. MURDER ATTEMPTS: THE MORNING OF JUNE 6 TWO YOUTHS
WENT BY A HIJACKED MOTORBIKE TO A SMALL FURNITURE STORE
IN THE SMITHFIELD MARKET AREA, A BLOCK OUTSIDE THE SECURITY
GATE AT THE END OF THE CONGEN'S STREET. ONE ENTERED THE
STORE AND SHOT A SHOP ASSISTANT IN THE HEAD, SERIOUSLY
WOUNDING HIM. THE YOUTHS FLED. THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN
(PIRA'S POLITICAL ARM) CLAIMED THE VICTIM AS A MEMBER AND
ACCUSED THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE ATTEMPT. EARLIER IN THE
MORNING AT COOKSTOWN IN CENTRAL NI, A PART-TIME SOLDIER OF THE
ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG WHEN A BOOBY
TRAP WENT OFF AS HE STARTED HIS DELIVERY VAN. IN ADDITION,
A SOLDIER ON SENTRY DUTY IN WEST BELFAST TOOK A BULLET
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IN HIS SHOULDER JUNE 2, ON MAY 30 THE ARMY EXPLODED A MINE
FOJND IN A CULVERT IN A POPULAR BELFAST PARK, AND THE SAME
NIGHT A MINE WAS DETONATED AS AN ARMY PATROL APPROACHED THE
SPOT IN SOUTH ARMAGH. WE NOTE IN ADDITION THAT POLICE JUST
OVER THE BORDER IN THE REPUBLIC REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED A TRUCK

CARRYING LOADED, HOMEMADE MORTARS. THEY WERE PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO BE USED AGAINST BRITISH ARMY OR POLICE FACILITIES IN SOUTH ARMAGH.

3. BIG BOMBS: EARLY JUNE 2 PIRA BLAST-INCENDIARY BOMBS DESTROYED THE 19TH-CENTURY REDBRICK BUILDING HOUSING THE BELFAST GAS COMPANY SHOW ROOMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS. THE WARNING WAS SHOT, AND A WATCHMAN NARROWLY ESCAPED. BOMBS LEFT IN THE VICINITY PREVENTED AGAIN AGAINST THE FIRE UNTIL THE ARMY DEFUSED THEM. THE BUILDING IS OUTSIDE THE SECURITY BARRIER ABOUT HALF A MILE FROM THE CONGEN.

4. EARLY THE NEXT DAY PIRA DESTROYED BY FIRE BOMBS A LARGE FREIGHT DEPOT NEAR DERRY. THE DAMAGE MAY HAVE BEEN AS HIGH AS FIVE MILLION POUNDS.

5. PUNISHMENT SHOOTINGS: PIRA CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR KILLING A MAN WHO WAS FOUND WITH HIS HANDS TIED AND SHOT THROUGH THE HEAD. THEY SAID HE HAD USED PIRA WEAPONS FOR "UNOFFICIAL" ACTIONS. SIMILARLY, THE PROSCRIBED LOYALIST ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE CLAIMED THE SHOOTING IN THE LEG OF A MAN WHO HAD BEEN PAROLED FROM THE MAZE PRISON, WHERE THE PROTEST CONTINUES IN FAVOR OF A RETURN OF SPECIAL STATUS TO TERRORIST PRISONERS. THE UVF SAID THIS "MINOR" PUNISHMENT WAS INFLICTED FOR COOPERATION WITH PRISON AUTHORITIES. TWO OTHER KNEE CAPPINGS IN BELFAST WENT UNCLAIMED.

6. COMMENT: PIRA HAS AVOIDED THE BLAST-INCENDIARY BOMB SINCE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE LA MON DISASTER, AND THERE HAVE BEEN FEW ATTACKS IN DOWNTOWN BELFAST RECENTLY. THE BOOBY TRAPPING TOOK PLACE IN THE SAME AREA AS THE SERIES OF ATTACKS ABOUT THE TIME OF LA MON, WHEN AN PIRA ACTIVE SERVICE UNIT WAS ENGAGED THERE. MOTIVATION IS OFTEN OBSCURE,BUT PIRA MAY BE REMINDING PEOPLE THAT NORMAL TIMES ARE NOT JUST AROUND THE CORNER.STOUT

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